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WELWYN GARDEN CITY URBAN DISTRICT.



ELEVENTH
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
AND THE SANITARY INSPECTOR

FROM THE

FIRST OF JANUARY

TO THE

THIRTY-FIRST OF DECEMBER,

1937.

1. Public Health Officers.

Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council.

Medical Officer of Health :

TREVOR THOMAS, M.D., B.S., D.P.H., R.C.P. & S. (Lond).

Sanitary Inspector :

MALCOLM STOCKDALE, Cert. S.I.B., M.S.I.A.

Clerk :

SIDNEY A. F. JESSETT.

To the Chairman and Members
of the Welwyn Garden City
Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the report on the health and sanitary circumstances of your district for the year 1937.

The report has been drawn up as far as possible in accordance with the Ministry of Health's Circular 1650 dated 4th October, 1937.

I am indebted to Captain W. E. James, your Surveyor, for particulars regarding the water supply and main drainage system.

I should like to express my thanks to Mr. B. H. Deamer, Clerk of the Council, for the help he has given me, also to Mr. M. Stockdale, your Sanitary Inspector, whose loyal co-operation has been of the greatest assistance.

I have the honour to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

TREVOR THOMAS,

Medical Officer of Health.

COUNCIL OFFICES,
BRIDGE ROAD,
WELWYN GARDEN CITY.

April, 1938.

Section A.—STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (acres)	2,576
Population (mid-year 1937) R.G. ...	11,370
Population (mid-year 1937) as estimated by Welwyn Garden City, Ltd. ...	12,702
Number of inhabited houses, end of June, 1937	3,252
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1937...	£109,785
Net estimated product of a penny rate	£430

Special Conditions.

A modern, industrial and residential centre. There are factories, each employing over a hundred hands, engaged in the manufacture of foodstuffs, light iron castings, grinding wheels, radio sets, films, and in building and constructional work. There are also firms engaged in the manufacture of sheet lead and lead piping, and in heavy engineering.

The principal small factories carry on the following industries:—manufacture of dresses, underclothing, silk stockings, combs, silk strings, fine chemicals, foodstuffs, electrical appliances, wireless component parts, cattle foods, seed-sorting machinery, confectionery, motor lorries, pressed metal goods, moulding powders, furnishing ironmongery, vitreous enamelling, paints, raw enamels, waterproofing compounds, printing, springs, boot-laces, sandpaper, sheet metal products, waterprooferers and proofstainers, and engineers.

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

			Total.	Males.	Females.
Live	}	Legitimate ...	236	122	114
Births		Illegitimate ...	8	4	4
Stillbirths...		... ..	2	0	2
Deaths		... ..	82	45	37
Birth-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population...					21·5
Stillbirth rate per 1,000 (live and still) births					8·1
Death-rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population...					9·8*
Deaths from diseases and accidents of pregnancy and childbirth—					
		From Sepsis		0	
		From other causes... ..		1	

*This figure is arrived at by multiplying the crude death-rate by 1·26, the adjusting factor supplied by the Registrar General.

This is necessary in order to make the death-rate comparable with that of England and Wales on the basis of equal sex and age distribution.

Twelve deaths of infants (one illegitimate) occurred under one year of age. The Death-rate of infants under one year of age was as follows :—

			Welwyn Garden City.			Eng. & Wales.		
			1935.	'36.	'37.	1935.	'36.	'37.
All infants per 1,000 live births...			35	62·8	49·2	57	59	58
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...			...	37	64·5	46·6		
Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births ...			0·0	0·0	125			
Deaths from Measles (all ages)			...	...	...	...	...	0
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)			...	...	...	...	...	0
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under two years of age)			...	...	...	...	...	0
			Welwyn Garden City.			Eng. & Wales.		
			1935.	'36.	'37.	1935.	'36.	'37.
Birth-rate ...			19·8	20·8	21·5	14·7	14·8	14·9
Death-rate ...			7·4	9·1	9·8	11·7	12·1	12·4
Infantile mortality rate			35	62·8	49·2	57	59	58

INFANT MORTALITY.

Eleven deaths occurred in infants under one year of age, the causes of which are given below.

1	female	5 months	pneumonia			
2	female	4 hours	Congenital debility & malformation			
			Premature birth.			
3	male	2 weeks		„	„	„
4	male	3 days		„	„	„
5	female	3 weeks		„	„	„
6	male	1 day		„	„	„
7	male	4 hours		„	„	„
8	male	1 month		„	„	„
9	female	1 month		„	„	„
10	male	2 months		„	„	„
11	male	3 days		„	„	„

It will be noted that in all cases except one prematurity is the important facts in causing death.

The most useful ways of preventing premature birth are by the regular attendance of the prospective mother at the ante-natal clinic, by prompt attention to any condition which tends to undermine her health, defective teeth, etc., and by instruction to her regarding diet, exercise, and the general hygiene of pregnancy. Nine of the deaths in the above list occurred under one month and five under two weeks. It would appear therefore that post-natal environment had little part in influencing the infant mortality in these cases.

The following table gives an analysis of the various causes of the 82 deaths which have occurred—or are required to be treated as having so occurred—in the town during the year.

					Males.	Females.
Measles	...	...	...	...	0	0
Whooping Cough	...	...	...	...	0	0
Diphtheria	...	...	...	...	0	0
Influenza	...	...	...	...	3	1
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system					4	0
Other tuberculous disease	...	...	...	...	0	1
Syphilis	...	...	...	...	0	0
Cancer, Malignant disease	...	...	...	...	4	8
General paralysis of the Insane, tabes dorsalis	...	...	...	...	0	0
Diabetes	...	...	...	...	2	0
Cerebral Hæmorrhage	...	...	...	...	5	3
Heart Disease	...	...	...	...	3	3
Aneurysm	...	...	...	...	0	1
Other circulatory diseases	...	...	...	...	0	1
Bronchitis	...	...	...	...	0	0
Pneumonia (all forms)	...	...	...	...	3	5
Other respiratory diseases	...	...	...	...	0	0
Peptic Ulcer	...	...	...	...	1	0
Diarrhoea, etc. (under 2 years)	...	...	...	...	0	0
Appendicitis	...	...	...	...	0	0
Cirrhosis of liver	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other diseases of liver, etc.	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other digestive diseases	...	...	...	...	2	0
Acute and chronic Nephritis	...	...	...	...	0	2
Puerperal Sepis	...	...	...	...	0	0
Other puerperal causes	...	...	...	...	0	1
Congenital debility and Malformation, premature birth	...	...	...	...	7	3
Senility	...	...	...	...	7	5
Suicide	...	...	...	...	0	1
Other deaths from violence	...	...	...	...	2	2
Other defined diseases	...	...	...	...	2	1
All causes					45	37

Section B.—GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES.

The Health Services of the town are administered by two separate organisations, The Hospital Association and the Health Association.

Hospital Association.

As the Hospital year has been changed to the calender year instead of running from April 1st to March 31st, the figures given below are for nine months only, ending December 31st, 1937.

The returns show that there have been 175 admissions, 120 being surgical and 55 medical cases. The operations

performed consisted of 26 major and 162 minor ones, with 46 first aid cases in addition. Out patient treatments numbered 1733.

During the period under revision the Association has found increased difficulty in meeting the needs of the town with a small hospital of eight beds.

Out of the total number of members of the Industrial Scheme of the Central Civic Fund who required hospital treatment, 253 had to be sent to other hospitals at the expense of the Fund, owing to lack of accommodation or adequate facilities.

Much time and thought has been spent on the question of a new hospital. As is well known the Urban District Council has undertaken, subject to the sanction by the Ministry of Health, to raise a loan for the purpose of building and equipping a new hospital, and the year closes with every prospect of a start being made at last with the erection of one of adequate size for the town.

The District Nurses attended the following cases during the year:—

General Nursing	...	...	...	...	414
Midwifery and Maternity	...	...	...	...	123

The number of persons who are now members of the Central Civic Industrial Scheme has increased during the year, and with the rapid growth of the Industrial side of Welwyn Garden City, further large additions are expected in the near future. During the year, the Committee have extended the benefits, which now include an arrangement by which members are enabled to obtain in the town, the services of a London Ophthalmic Surgeon—at reduced fees—towards the cost of which the fund makes a grant.

Clinics and Treatment Centres.

The time when these Institutions are open is given below:—

Clinic	Place.	Time.	Date.
Child Welfare ...	Lawrence Hall	2 to 4 p.m.	Every Thursday
Child Welfare			2nd and 4th
Weighing Clinic	Lawrence Hall	2 to 4 p.m.	Wednesday in every month
„ „ ...	Peartree Club-House	2 to 4 p.m.	Every Monday and Tuesday
Ante-Natal ...	Lawrence Hall	2 to 4 p.m.	First Friday in every month
„ „ ...	Peartree Club-House	2 to 4 p.m.	2nd and 4th Friday in every month
Dental ...	Lawrence Hall	9.30 to 11.30 a.m. and 2 to 4 p.m.	Every Tuesday

Clinic.	Place.	Time.	Date.
Child Guidance ...	St. Albans and Mid-Herts Hospital.	11 a.m.	Thursdays
Married Women's Clinic (Birth Control)	Lawrence Hall	7.30 to 9 p.m. 2.15 to 3.45 p.m.	2nd and 4th Friday in every month 1st and 3rd Wednesday in each month

Diphtheria Immunisation.

During 1937, a scheme was put into operation for the immunisation of children against diphtheria. Children under five years can be immunised at the Maternity and Child Welfare centres, the cost being borne by the County Council. Children over five years and under fourteen years can be immunised by arrangement with the Medical Officer of Health at the cost of the Council, and arrangements have been made whereby immunisation material can be supplied to any local practitioners for the immunisation of any child in the latter age group.

There has been a fair response to the scheme as far as the clinics are concerned, (79 children were immunised during 1937) and increased publicity should lead to a greater number of parents availing themselves of this valuable preventive measure.

Health Services Publicity.

In compliance with an order made by the Ministry of Health, steps were taken during the year to give increased prominence to the health services of the City.

Leaflets giving full details can now be obtained at all Post Offices, and should be of much value in encouraging the public to make use of the public health services.

During the year two lectures were held in the Garden City, under the auspices of the British Empire Cancer Campaign. Other lectures arranged in conjunction with the same organisation were held in the surrounding districts.

It is hoped that further lectures will be arranged during 1938.

Tuberculosis.

The nearest available clinics are (1) at Hatfield at Northcotts, North Road, where the Tuberculosis Officer attends on the second and fourth Mondays at 11 a.m.; and (2) at the County Medical Office, Hertford, on Mondays at 2 p.m.

Venereal Disease.

Treatment is provided free of cost at a London Hospital under arrangements made by the County Council.

Hospitals provided or subsidised by the local Authority or by the County Council.

- | | | | |
|-----|--|---|--|
| (1) | Tuberculosis | County Sanatorium,
Ware Park, | County Council. |
| (2) | Maternity ... | Wellhouse Hospital,
Barnet. | Public Assistance Com-
mittee County Council. |
| (3) | Children ... | Wellhouse Hospital,
Barnet. | Public Assistance Com-
mittee County Council. |
| (4) | Isolation ... | (a) Sister's Hospital,
St. Albans. | (Diphtheria, Scarlet
Fever, and Cerebro
Spinal Fever). |
| | | (b) Wellhouse
Hospital, Barnet. | |
| (5) | Smallpox ... | Hitchin Road,
Langley, near
Hitchin. | Hitchin & Letchworth
Joint Hospital Board. |
| (6) | Mental ... | Hill End, near
St. Albans. | County Council. |
| (7) | *Home for
aged & in-
firm women. | Public Assistance
Institution,
"Welfield,"
Hatfield. | Public Assistance Com-
mittee, County
Council. |

*All male Infirmary cases are admitted to Wellhouse Home, Barnet.

Ambulance Facilities.

- (a) For infectious cases. Motor Ambulances stationed at the Sister's Hospital, St. Albans, and Wellhouse Hospital, Barnet.
- (b) For non-infectious cases and accidents. The Council's Ambulance stationed at The Council Offices, Bridge Road, Welwyn Garden City.
- (c) For maternity cases as in (b).

There is an Ambulance and Nursing Division of the St. John Ambulance Brigade in the District, and the address of the Hon. Secretary is 70, Knella Road.

The Council have taken over the Ambulance service previously administered by the Local Branch of the St. John Ambulance Brigade, the members of which still keep in close touch with the Council in this work, supplying stretcher bearers and drivers when required.

The Council are responsible for the maintenance and upkeep of the Ambulance and the provision of an expert driver and mechanic. The local Nursing Association also co-operate.

6. LABORATORY WORK.

Bacteriological Examinations.

Arrangements have been made whereby members of the Medical Profession practising in the district can obtain bacteriological reports (free of charge) in cases of diphtheria, enteric fever, tuberculosis, meningitis and ringworm. In the case of tuberculosis, outfits for collecting specimens for examination can be obtained on application from the County Medical Office, Hertford, or from the Tuberculosis Officers at one of the dispensaries. These examinations are carried out at the Hill End Mental Hospital, near St. Albans.

Provision of Anti-toxin.

Members of the Medical Profession practising in the district can obtain a supply of diphtheria anti-toxin free of charge. The anti-toxin is kept at the Cottage Hospital, Elm Gardens, Welwyn Garden City, Telephone 269, and at the Public Health Department.

A supply of sterile throat swabs and outfits for Widal Tests are also available at this Institution and at the Public Health Department.

Section C.—SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

1. (i) WATER.

The Water Undertaking is owned and operated by the Welwyn Garden City Urban District Council.

The supply is obtained from deep bore-holes in the chalk formation in the valley of the River Mimram where the Pumping Station is situated. Four sets of pumping plant raise the water to reservoirs on the Sherrards Wood ridge, which provide a storage capacity of 1,000,000 gallons for the town supply.

From the same station, the Council pump water in bulk to the towers and reservoirs of the Welwyn Rural District Council and part of the Rural District of Hertford.

During 1937 new distributing mains of a total length of 4,623 yards were laid. .

The supply of water has been satisfactory in quantity and quality.

A sample taken on the 19th March, 1937, from the Rising Main at the Pumping Station was submitted for chemical examination, and the following report received:—

Chemical Results in parts per 100,000.

Appearance	..	...	...	Clear and bright
Colour	...	...	...	Normal—Odour Nil.
Reaction pH.	...	...	...	Neutral 7·2 Free Carbonic Acid—2·8
Electric Conductivity at 20°C.	...	...	...	475
Total Solids 180°C.	...	...	...	31·5
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	1·2
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	0·34 Nitrites Absent.
Hardness—Permanent	...	...	...	5·5
Temporary	...	...	...	22·5
Total	...	...	...	28·0
Metals...	...	...	...	Absent
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0·0004
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0·0000
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80°F	...	...	...	0·0000

Report :—“ This is a clear and bright water of normal colour, neutral reaction and containing an appreciable trace of Free Carbonic Acid. The water is hard in character, contains no excess of salinity and is entirely free from metals.

It is of the highest degree of organic quality, and from the chemical standpoint therefore, is a pure and wholesome water, suitable for Public Supply Purposes.”

Another sample of water taken on the 23rd November, 1937, from the Rising Main at the Pumping Station was submitted for chemical and bacteriological examination, and the following report received :—

Chemical Results in Parts per 100,000.

Appearance	...	...	...	Clear and bright.
Colour	...	...	...	Normal—Odour : Nil.
Reaction pH.	...	...	...	Neutural : 7·1. Free Carbonic Acid.
Electric Conductivity at 20° C.	...	...	...	490
Total Solids, 180°C.	...	...	...	32·5
Chlorine in Chlorides	...	...	...	1·2
Nitrogen in Nitrates	...	...	...	0·36 Nitrites : Absent.
Hardness : Permanent	...	...	...	7·5
Temporary	...	...	...	22·5
Total	...	...	...	30·0
Metals	...	...	...	Absent
Free Ammonia	...	...	...	0·0000 Ammoniacal Nitrogen.
Albuminoid Ammonia	...	...	...	0·0010 Albuminoid Nitrogen.
Oxygen absorbed in 4 hrs. at 80° F.	...	...	...	0·015

Bacteriological Results.

No. of Bacteria per c.c. or ml.

On Agar in 3 days at 20°C.	...	2
„ „ 1 day at 37°C.	...	1
„ „ 2 days at 37°C.	...	1
The Bacillus Coli	... .. Present in—Absent in 100c.c.	
Bacillus Welchii	... .. Present in—Absent in 100c.c.	
(B. Enteritidis Sporogenes).		

Report :—“ This sample is clear and bright, of normal colour, and neutral in reaction. It is hard in character, but not to excessive degree, contains no excess of saline or mineral matter in solution, is free from metals and of good organic quality and the highest standard of bacterial purity.

It is therefore considered pure and wholesome water, suitable for the purpose of public supply.”

A further sample of water taken from a tap (main) at 32, Coneydale, was submitted for chemical examination, and the following is an extract from the report received :—

“ This sample is clear and bright, odourless, of normal colour, and neutral in reaction. The water is hard in character though not to an excessive degree, contains no excess of salinity or of metals, and is of a high standard of organic purity.

From the standpoint of chemical analysis, therefore, the water is pure and wholesome and suitable for drinking and domestic purposes.”

(ii) DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

The town is sewered on the separate system. Surface water is drained to the valleys of the Lea and Mimram rivers, which bound the district on the south and north respectively.

Foul water is gathered by tributary sewers to the main trunk sewer which traverses the town from south-west to north-east, and discharges into sewage disposal works in the north-east corner of the District. The whole drainage system is new and in a satisfactory condition.

Sewage from the Valley Road District is raised by an automatically controlled Pumping Station to the head of the main sewer.

The system of disposal consists of detritus tanks, screens, continuous-flow settlement tanks, dosing tanks and percolating filters fed through revolving sprinklers. Both sludge and effluent are discharged temporarily on the surface of adjoining farmlands without nuisance, but plans have been prepared for the construction of a concrete culvert to carry the purified effluent to the River Mimram, and provisional sanction for this outfall has been received from the Lea Conservancy and the Lea Catchment Board.

During 1937, 6,481 yards of new tributary sewers and 6,651 yards of surface water drains have been laid.

2. RIVERS AND STREAMS.

A portion of the River Mimram, 1 mile (approx.) runs through the northern portion of the district and a portion of the Lea, half mile (approx.) runs through the south portion of the district. No complaints of pollution have been received during the year.

3. (i) CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

The closet accommodation is on the water carriage system, with the exception of those cottages (rural in character) on the outskirts of the district, where the pail system is in operation, and where the occupants arrange to bury the contents in their gardens.

(a) No. of pail closets abolished; water closets installed and connected to a water carriage system during recent years	... ..	15
(b) No. of pail closets remaining at the end of 1935		52

It is hoped during the next year that houses with pail closets will either be demolished or provided with the water carriage system.

(ii) PUBLIC CLEANSING.

(a) *Refuse Collection and Disposal.* All premises have galvanised iron dustbins of a specified type and capacity for the deposit of refuse. Their provision is enforceable by section 64 of the Welwyn Garden City Act, 1932. Refuse is collected weekly in covered motor vehicles by the Council's contractor.

All such refuse is tipped at a dump near 20th Mile Bridge and is disposed of by controlled tipping. Such rats as may be given access to the dump or its surroundings are destroyed with poison and hydrocyanic acid gas.

(b) *Street Cleansing.* This is controlled by the Surveyor. Street sweepings are collected and deposited on a piece of land which is being reclaimed by the Council for eventual use as a play park.

(c) *Gully Cleansing.* All gullies for which the Council are responsible are regularly emptied and flushed by Contract Gulley Cleansing, Ltd., who are employed by the Council under contract for this purpose. The sludge obtained is deposited on land at 20th Mile Bridge. A number of gullies are also cleared by Welwyn Builders on the instruction of Welwyn Garden City Ltd.

(d) Such cesspools as there are are emptied by the Council's refuse Contractor at the request of and at the expense of the owner of the premises concerned.

(e) *Dustbins.* The Council's contractor notifies the Public Health Department of any defective dustbins they find. 20 new bins were provided during the year on owners being requested to do so.

(iii) SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

(a) Number and nature of Inspections made during the year:—

Inspections of Workshops	...	...	...	...	17
„ Factories	...	...	...	...	40
„ Workplaces	...	...	...	...	17
„ Food Stores	...	...	...	...	29
„ Cowsheds, Dairies	...	...	...	...	23
„ Licensed Premises	...	...	...	...	9
„ Rat Infested Premises	...	...	...	...	92
„ Shops	...	...	...	...	55
„ <i>re</i> Insects, Pests	...	...	...	...	131
„ of Dwellings (excluding Inspections under H.A., 1936)	...	...	...	...	327
„ Schools	...	...	...	...	6
No. of Premises where Drains smoke and/or water tested	...	...	...	...	8
No. of Premises Disinfested	...	...	...	...	7
Inspections of Dwelling-houses under H.A., 1936	...	...	...	...	229
Total Inspections of Premises	...	...	...	...	889
Smoke observations made	...	...	...	...	46
„ Nuisances	...	...	...	...	4
(b) (1) Number of Informal Notices served	...	...	...	...	75
(2) Number of Statutory Notices served	...	...	...	...	11

(c) (1) Number of Informal Notices.

70 were complied with, 5 were not complied with, and Statutory Notices then served.

(2) Number of Statutory Notices.

5 were complied with.

4 had not expired.

1 had not been complied with.

1 was withdrawn.

(iv) SHOPS.

There are 35 shops in the district in which approximately 400 persons are employed. Fifty-five inspections of shops have been made during the year.

Shops Act, 1934.

Heating apparatus or additional heating was provided in three shops. The provisions regarding heating are most difficult to enforce. Plans of new shops are examined by the Health Department before they are approved, and any necessary representations made to the proposers where it appears that either the plans do not conform with the Public Health Act, 1936, or that structural alterations would be necessary on the shop becoming occupied, because the shops did not comply with the Shops Acts.

The following action under the Public Health Acts was also taken :—

	Defects Found.	Informal Notices.	Defects Remedied.
Want of Cleanliness	2	2	2
Sanitary Defects ...	3	3	3
Other Nuisances ...	1	—	1

(v) SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Smoke observations taken	...	...	...	46
Smoke nuisances	...	...	...	4

In each case where smoke was produced so as to be a nuisance, the factories concerned took steps to avoid repetition of the nuisance.

It appears that the atmosphere of Welwyn Garden City is comparatively unpolluted. This may be attributed to the high consumption of electricity. Practically every house is wired for electricity, 61% having electric cookers. The domestic consumption in the town is higher than anywhere else in the country. Factories (approx. 94) are wired for electricity, which in all instances provides the motive power. Steam boilers or furnaces are used for heating or trade processes only.

(vi) SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

The Lea Valley Open Air Swimming Pool is administered by the Council, and is supplied with water from springs arising in the valley of the Lea. The supply is sufficient to maintain a constant flow through the pool and affords approximately three changes of water in 24 hours. The pool is 100 feet long by 40 feet wide, the bottom is paved with flags and the top is surrounded with concrete paving.

As the water discharges into a fishing stream, no chemical treatment can be provided to ensure a satisfactory condition of the water.

Sand filtration is in use at the inlet to exclude vegetable debris, leaves, etc., and fencing has been provided in the vicinity of the source to prevent pollution.

(vii) ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

(1) Houses found infested	...	...	...	10
(a) Council houses	...		7	
(b) Other houses	...		3	
(ii) Houses disinfested	...	...	...	10

(2) A proprietary fumigant is used which generates a gas, non-poisonous to humans.

Methods are as follows :— Before Fumigation.

- (a) Loosen skirting boards and architraves and other wooden fittings ; if infestation is heavy these are sprayed at once with an insecticide.
- (b) Lift two floor boards at ends of each room to be treated.
- (c) Seal any flues at chimney stack.
- (d) Seal all ventilators outside.
- (e) Seal all windows.
- (f) Arrange bedding, etc., for maximum gas penetration.
- (g) Light fumigant.
- (h) Seal door.
- (i) Deal with any leakages—where possible.

After Fumigation.

- (a) The rooms treated are closed for at least 6 hours.
- (b) Although the gas is not poisonous, the concentration found when unsealing a room renders it necessary for the operator to wear a gas mask, the gas involved being a lung irritant.

(3) There has been no slum clearance in Welwyn Garden City, five individual unfit houses have been demolished since April, 1933, none of them were infested with *cimex lectularius*, accordingly no action has been necessary concerning the above. The Housing Department, where possible, inspect premises occupied by would-be tenants of Council Houses, and also interview all applicants. A tenant concerning whom evidence is available that he would prove an unsatisfactory tenant would not be allocated a Council House.

(4) Prior to Mid-Year 1936, the Council carried out all disinfesting operations in the town, laterly Welwyn Garden

City, Ltd., or its subsidiaries, the only other landlords of importance have themselves disinfested houses owned by them requiring treatment.

4. REPORT ON SCHOOL HEALTH DURING 1936.

The health of the pupils has been very good. The most prevalent defect noted at the medical inspections has been carious teeth, and this condition occurs chiefly among the entrants.

There has been no serious outbreak of notifiable illness during the year under review. Measles was, however, very prevalent in Welwyn Garden City during the late Spring and Summer. The outbreak was associated with few chest complications no doubt due to the fact that the illness occurred in the Summer.

Section D.—HOUSING.

1. *Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year :—*

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	250
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	456
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	54
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose ...	124
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	0
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	84

2. *Remedy of Defects during the Year without service of formal Notices :—*

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	30
--	----

3. *Action under Statutory Powers during the year :—*

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936.

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	0
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:—	
(a) By Owners 	4
(b) By local authority in default of Owners 	0

(b) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made	26
(2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders ...	6

(c) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936 :—

(1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made 	0
(2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined the tenement or room having been rendered fit 	0
(3) Number of houses demolished by owners' voluntary action 	12

4. *Housing Act, 1936, Part IV. Overcrowding.*

(a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year 1937 	28
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein ...	28
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein ...	226
(b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year 1937 	3
(c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding abated during the year 	5
(ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases	35
(d) No houses are known to have become "re-crowded" after steps were taken to abate overcrowding therein.	

TABLE 1.

The following table gives details concerning houses owned by the Council:—

Scheme No.	Situation,	Acres.	No. of houses.	Type.	No.	In-clusive Rent. †	Act built under.	Year completed.	Rate-able value 1931. £
1	Youngs Rise Elm Gardens Applecroft Road	4.6	50	A3 B3 B4	20 20 10	12/10½ 15/1½ 17/1½	1919	1922	16 to 21
2	Guessens Road Lanefield Walk	7.5	93	A2 A3 B3	38 31 24	11/7 12/1 13/4½	1923	1924	10 to 15
3	Longcroft Lane Birdcroft Road	8.9	100	A2 A3 B3	2 54 44	11/7 12/7 13/1	1923	1925	12
4	Ludwick Way Knella Road District	20.4	*200	A2 A3 B3 B4	31 43 103 23	13/5 14/8 17/5½ 19/2½	1923	1927	10 to 18
5	Knella Road Barnard Green Longmore Gardens	8.7	*100	A3 B3	76 24	11/4 14/10½	1924	1930	12 17 16
6	Salisbury Road Heronswood Road District	18.15	*200	A2 A3 B3	24 130 46	11/1 11/4 14/4½	1924	1931	10 to 17
7	Holwell Road Knella Road	5.076	†*65	A3	25 32 *8	11/4 6/11½	1924 1930	1932	12 7
8	Knella Road Knella Green Salisbury Road	8.47	*84	A3	84	11/7	1925	1936	12
9	Longlands Road Burgundy Croft Ludwick Way Holwell Road	10.653	†*118	A3 B3	91 19 *8	12/3 14/6½ 7/3½	1925	1937	12 17 7
		89.533	1010		1010				

†8 flats for aged people.

Type A2.	Non-parlour and two bedrooms	...	...	...	...	85
Type A3.	Non-parlour and three bedrooms...	...	...	...	...	586
Type B3.	Parlour and three bedrooms	...	...	...	...	290
Type B4.	Parlour and four bedrooms	...	...	...	...	33
Flats.	Non-parlour and one bedroom	...	...	...	...	16
						1010

†The inclusive rents given are in some instances only approximate. Where the actual inclusive rents vary from the figures shown in the table the actual inclusive rents will be found shown in Table 2.

*717 of these houses and flats are provided with sheds.

The inclusive rent includes rates and water charges. Rates for 1937, 11/8 in the £.

Scheme No. 10 is now in the course of erection, and comprises 73 three-bedroom non-parlour houses, 14 four-bedroom non-parlour houses, 15 three-bedroom parlour houses, 18 four-bedroom parlour houses, 4 six-bedroom parlour houses and 8 one-bedroom non-parlour flats.

TABLE 2.

RENTS—Council Houses.

No. 2 Scheme.

A2. 9/1, 10/1, 10/4, 10/7, 11/7, 11/10, 12/-

A3. 10/7, 11/10, 12/1, 12/4.

B3. 11/10½, 13/4½, 13/10½, 14/4½.

No. 3 Scheme.

A3. 11/10, 12/4, 12/7, 12/10.

B3. 12/4, 13/1.

No. 4 Scheme.

A2. 13/1, 13/5, 13/8.

A3. 14/4, 14/7, 14/8, 14/11.

B3. 16/1, 16/4½, 16/10, 16/11½, 17/1½, 17/2, 17/4½, 17/5½, 17/7½, 17/8½.

B4. 17/7½, 17/10½, 17/11½, 18/3½, 18/5½, 18/8½, 18/9½, 18/10½, 18/11½, 19/1½, 19/2½.

No. 6 Scheme.

A2. 10/10, 11/1, 11/4.

B3. 14/4½, 14/10½.

Section E.—INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

(a) MILK SUPPLY.

(1) There are 18 retail purveyors and 3 cowkeepers registered, of whom only 6 occupy premises in the area. The major portion of the milk sold is produced outside the district.

During the year 23 inspections were made of cowsheds and dairies. Two informal notices were served and complied with.

(2) MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS, ETC.

Retail Purveyors.

Application for Registration during the year	...	0
Previously Registered	... ..	18
Total on Register	... ..	18

Cowkeepers and Producers.

Previously Registered	... ..	3
Applications for Registration during the year	...	0
Total on Register	...	3

Milk (Special Designations) Orders.

The following Licences were issued during 1937 :—

Licence in respect of the establishment at which T.T. Milk is bottled	...	...	...	...	1
Licence in respect of the establishment at which pasteurisation is carried on	...	...	...	...	1
Licences in respect of other shops from which pasteurised milk is sold	...	...	...	...	1

Supplementary Licences.

To sell Accredited Milk	...	...	...	...	1
Tuberculin Tested	...	...	...	...	3

(3) BIOLOGICAL EXAMINATIONS.

Sixteen samples of milk were submitted for biological examination with a view to ascertaining if Tubercle Bacilli were present.

Two of the samples were found positive. These results were communicated to the County Medical Officer, who caused the herds by which it appeared that the positive milk had been produced to be examined by a veterinary surgeon. As a result of this a cow with advanced tuberculosis was detected and slaughtered.

(4) Samples of milk are regularly taken for bacteriological examination (see also part (c) of this section).

The results of the 62 samples taken during the year are given below. The results may be regarded as satisfactory, bearing in mind that more samples have been taken from those Purveyors whose milk was thought likely to be unsatisfactory than from those Purveyors whose supply is believed to be clean milk.

Ordinary.

Sample No.	1 ml.	B. Coli in Millitres.			Bacteria per Millilitre.
		1/10th	1/100th	1/1000th	
3165		—	—	—	40,000
3161		—	—	—	170,000
3159		—	—	—	69,000
3157		—	—	—	9,300
2998		—	—	—	106,000
2996		—	—	—	7,200
2873		—	—	—	5,700
2386		—	—	—	21,000
2385		+	—	—	5,700
1375		—	—	—	5,000
1373		—	—	—	800,000
1371		+	—	—	10,000
1165		—	—	—	20,000
1163		—	—	—	12,000
1160		—	—	—	8,000

Ordinary (continued).

Sample No.	1 ml.	B. Coli in Millilitres.			Bacteria per Millilitre.
		1/10th	1/100th	1/1000th	
670		—	—	—	2,000
669	—	—	—	—	2,300
668	+	—	—	—	10,000
667		—	—	—	29,000
566		—	—	—	50,000
565		—	—	—	29,000
563		—	—	—	32,000
562		—	—	—	45,000
303		—	—	—	4,800
309		—	—	—	111,000
301		—	—	—	27,000
16		+	+	—	68,000
15		—	—	—	42,000
14		+	+	+	84,000
13		—	—	—	200,000
10		—	—	—	1,600

Pasteurised.

3158	—	—	—	24,000
3000	—	—	—	53,000
2383	Phosphate Test Satisfactory			390
2381	do.			4,000
1369	—	—	—	4,000
1166	—	—	—	1,700
1159	—	—	—	4,000
672	—	—	—	5,000
671	—	—	—	10,000
564	—	—	—	6,800

Sterilized.

1162	—	—	—	Sterile
5	—	—	—	Sterile

Tuberculin Tested.

3154/3	—	—	—	11,000
3002/1	+	+	+	22,000
2388/7	—	—	—	32,000
1168/7	—	—	—	100,000
674/3	—	—	—	60,000
572/1	—	—	—	3,000
570/69	—	—	—	500,000
568/7	—	—	—	10,000
305/4	—	—	—	3,200
9/8	—	—	—	
7/6	—	—	—	

Accredited.

3156/5	—	—	—	400,000
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(b) MEAT AND OTHER FOODS.

The system of meat inspection in operation consists of visits to shops retailing meat, there being no slaughterhouses in the district. A number of meat and other perishable food vendors' vehicles come into the district, these are inspected at intervals.

No. of official inspections of Food Stores	...	...	29
„ „ irregularities under Meat Regulations		...	Nil.

(c) ADULTERATION, ETC.

The Food and Drugs and Allied Acts are administered by the County Council.

During the year, 26 samples of food were taken under the Food and Drugs (Adulteration) Act, 1928, fifteen being milk and eleven "other foods." The samples of other foods were as follows:—Shredded suet 2, butter 2, lard 2, vinegar 1, jam 2, cocoa 2. One sample of milk was found to contain 5·8% added water. This adulteration was traced back to the premises of the supplier, and three employees of the supplier were convicted of adding water to milk intended for sale.

(d) CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.

The above examinations are carried out at:—

- (1) Hill End Laboratory, St. Albans, Herts.
- (2) Counties Public Health Laboratories, 91, Queen Victoria Street, London, E.C.4.
- (3) Public Analyst, 17, Gt. Tower Street, London, E.C.3.

(e) SHELL-FISH (Molluscan).

There are no shell-fish beds in the district.

**Section F.—PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER,
INFECTIOUS AND OTHER DISEASES.**

Infectious Diseases notified during the year:—

			Total cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.
Diphtheria	...	...	5	5
Scarlet Fever	...	...	21	16
Ophthalmia Neonatorum			0	0
Pneumonia	...	...	7	2
Puerperal Pyrexia	...		1	0
Puerperal Fever	...		0	0
Erysipelas	...	...	5	1
Typhoid Fever	...	...	0	0

AN ANALYSIS OF CASES NOTIFIED UNDER AGE GROUPS
IS SET OUT BELOW.

				DISEASE.				
				Diphtheria.	Scarlet Fever.	Pneumonia.	Puerperal Pyrexia.	Erysipelas.
Under 1 year	...			1	0	0	0	1
1 year	...	...		0	1	0	0	0
2 years	...	...		0	0	0	0	0
3	„	...	...	0	1	0	0	0
4	„	...	...	0	1	0	0	0
5	„	...	...	0	12	1	0	0
10	„	...	...	2	4	0	0	0
15	„	...	...	0	1	0	0	0
20	„	...	...	1	1	2	1	3
35	„	...	...	0	0	0	0	1
45	„	...	...	1	0	3	0	0
65 and over	...			0	0	1	0	0
Total				5	21	7	1	5

Tuberculosis.

Age Periods.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
5	—	—	2	1	—	1	—	—
10	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
15	2	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
25	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
30	2	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	1	—	1	—	—	—
55	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	6	3	4	2	3	1	0	0

No. of cases on register at January 1st, 1937 :

Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total
M.	F.	M.	F.	
31	17	13	15	67

No. of cases on register at December 31st, 1937 :

Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Total
M.	F.	M.	F.	
22	11	9	16	67

LIST OF ADOPTIVE ACTS AND BYE-LAWS IN FORCE IN THE
URBAN DISTRICT AND DATES FROM WHICH THEY BECAME
OPERATIVE.

1. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907 (Section 33) ... 13th May, 1915.
2. Do. (Section 19) ... 30th April, 1935.
3. Infectious Diseases (Prevention) Act, 1890 ... 1st April, 1927.
4. Public Health Act, 1925 (except Sections 21 and 22 of Part II.) 1st August, 1930.
5. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 ... 1st March, 1931.
6. Public Health (Smoke Abatement) Act, 1926, Bye-laws made under Section 2 ... 6th May, 1931.
7. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1907—Sections 18, 20, 22, 28, 29, 30 (subject to conditions), 32 (subject to provisions of Section 33) ...
Part IV. Sections 53 & 54 ...
The conditions referred to are those contained in the Welwyn Garden City Urban (Public Health) Order, 1932 } 29th February, 1932.
8. Welwyn Garden City U.D.C. Act 16th June, 1932.
9. Bye-laws for the prevention of waste, etc., of water made under provisions of Section 38 Welwyn Garden City U.D.C. Act, 1932 ... } 14th November, 1932.
10. Bye-laws New Streets and Buildings made under provisions of Section 157 P.H.A. 1875 ... } 21st December, 1933.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

1. INSPECTION OF FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS AND WORKPLACES.

Premises (1)	Inspections (2)	Number of :	
		Written Notices (3)	Occupiers prosecuted (4)
FACTORIES (including Factory Laundries)	40	5	
WORKSHOPS including Work- shop Laundries)	17		
WORKPLACES (other than Out- workers' Premises)	17		
Total ...	74	5	Nil.

2. DEFECTS FOUND IN FACTORIES, WORKSHOPS & WORK- PLACES.

Particulars	Number of Defects			Number of offences in respect of which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	Referred to H.M. Inspector	
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)	(5)
<i>Nuisances under the Public Health Acts :</i>				
Want of cleanliness ...	3	3		
Want of ventilation ...				
Overcrowding ...				
Want of drainage of floors				
Other nuisances ...	4	4		
Sanitary accommodation			1	
Defective Drains ...				
Total ...	7	7	1	Nil.

Plans for all new factories are submitted to the Health Department before they are approved. Should it appear that the plans are likely to contravene any of the Public Health and/or Factory and Workshops Acts, and thus involve structural alteration after completion of the building to which the plan refers, appropriate suggestions are made to the proposers.

GARDEN REFUSE.

Accumulations of decaying food, manure, grass cuttings and mixed garden refuse form media for the breeding of flies and other insect pests, in addition they provide harbourage to rats and mice, and to a less extent provide such with a food supply. The problem is more serious in the Garden City than in any ordinary Urban District: this is because every house in the former has a garden with consequent production of accumulations of garden refuse suitable for fly breeding.

The Council undertake to remove house refuse, that is, refuse which is domestic in character, but do not undertake to remove other kinds of refuse. The egg of the fly under favourable conditions produces an adult fly in 8 days. In unfavourable conditions, that is in cool weather, the process may take up to 12 weeks.

Garden refuse, including grass cuttings, is a most important factor in providing a breeding place for flies and harbourage for rodents. These are various methods open to the householder to prevent such breeding, which are as follows:—

1. To burn all garden refuse in a domestic incinerator. This system is unsatisfactory, amongst other drawbacks is the nuisance likely to be produced by smoke and particles of the burnt refuse getting into the air, furthermore valuable plant food is being destroyed.
2. To bury all garden refuse one foot or more deep at least once a week. This is the most satisfactory method. Plant food is conserved and the refuse buried before any flies even under the most favourable conditions of weather and material for breeding have had time to develop. If it is not possible to bury the garden refuse once weekly, any refuse not so buried should be sprayed with an insecticide. All heaps of refuse being kept as small and compact as possible.
3. To have all garden refuse removed at least once a week. This involves the loss of valuable plant food, but is a satisfactory way. The Council's refuse contractors are prepared to remove garden refuse at the rate of 3d. per bin.

RATS AND MICE.

The Rats and Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919, is administered in the Garden City by the County Council, who are the Local Authority for the purposes of the Act. The Act gives power to enable the County Council to delegate its power to a Committee of the County Council. The power has been delegated to the Hertfordshire Agricultural Committee. None of the powers under the Act can be enforced by this Council unless it became a County Borough, when the Council would become the Local Authority for the purposes of enforcing the Act.

The County Rats Officer is Mr. J. Dubbin, 19, North Crescent, Hertford, Phone: Hertford 93. Advice is given as to the best means of eradication by the Public Health Department and Mr. Dubbin. If circumstances render it necessary and expedient, Public Health Department is prepared to take action to destroy rats and mice.

During the year, 92 inspections were made to investigate rodent infestation. Appropriate action was taken in all cases and the trouble abated.

INSECT PESTS.

131 visits were made concerning complaints of the presence of ants, beetles, fleas, earwigs, etc. The measures necessary to eradicate the pests were taken. In three instances this involved structural alterations.

SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS CARRIED OUT AFTER INTIMATION TO THE OWNER OR OCCUPIER.

Nuisances and defects dealt with.

PREMISES.

Defective house roofs	...	...	...	...	3
Galvanised dust-bins provided or renewed	...	...	...	...	20
Defective washing coppers	...	...	...	...	2
Damp houses	...	...	...	...	5
Defective guttering	...	...	...	...	3
Verminous premises	...	...	...	...	10
Dirty premises	...	...	...	...	19
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	10
Baths provided	...	...	...	...	4
Additional lighting	...	...	...	...	8
New ventilators	...	...	...	...	6
Ceilings renewed	...	...	...	...	5
New floors	...	...	...	...	2
Defective ranges	...	...	...	...	2
Defective pointing	...	...	...	...	7

DRAINS.

Defective drains relaid	...	...	...	...	5
„ „ repaired	...	...	...	...	9
Choked drains	...	...	...	...	23

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION, &C.

Insufficient or no W.C. water	...	...	...	...	3
New W.C's. fixed	...	...	...	...	4
Defective W.C. seats	...	...	...	...	4
Defective sink and bath waste pipes, traps, etc.	...	...	...	...	13
Miscellaneous repairs	...	...	...	...	9
New accommodation provided	...	...	...	...	4

GENERAL.

Rat infested premises ...	...	...	...	55
Insect infested premises	...	...	...	40
Defective rain water pipes	...	...	...	8
Defective house floors ...	...	...	...	8
Accumulation of refuse	...	...	...	2 5
Impure water supply ...	...	...	...	2
Overcrowding abated ...	...	...	...	5
Yard paving repaired ...	...	...	...	4
Defective downspouts ...	...	...	...	8
Plastering repaired ...	...	...	...	13
Absence of sufficient washing facilities ...	...	...	...	4
Additional hot water ...	...	...	...	4
Air locks ...	...	...	...	2
Miscellaneous nuisances and repairs	...	...	...	35
Disinfections	...	...	...	43
New wash basins	...	...	...	4
New yard paving	...	...	...	25
Defective gullys	...	...	...	3
Keeping of animals	...	...	...	3
New manholes	...	...	...	4

SCHOOLS.

There are 9 schools, 4 of which are Public Elementary Schools. The water in each case is obtained from the town's public supply.

No. of visits to Public Elementary Schools	6
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RAG FLOCK ACT, 1911 AND 1928.

There are no premises in the district in which rag flock is manufactured, used or sold.

Infected Premises.

DISINFECTION.

No. of infected Rooms disinfected in 43 infected houses, 54.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.

The above Acts are administered by the County Council through the Chief Constable of Hertfordshire.

Factory and Workshop Act.

The following is a list of Factories and Workshops on the Register at the end of the year (Section 131 Factory and Workshops Act, 1901):—

FATORIES.

Baker and Confectioner ...	1	Metal Castor Makers ...	1
Brickworks	1	Metal Scraper Manufac-	
Builders	3	turer	1
Motor Car Bodies ...	2	Printers	2
Cement Water Proofer ...	1	Radio Set Makers ...	1
Comb Maker	1	„ Accessories ...	1
Corset Maker	1	Silk Fashions	1
Cosmetic Manufacturer ...	1	Stocking and Hosiery ...	1
Electrical Heating Appli-		Sweet Makers	3
ances	1	Synthetic Paints and	
Electricity Supply... ..	1	Enamel Makers... ..	5
Engineers : Constructional	1	Tennis Racquet String	
Film Studio... ..	1	Manufacturer	1
Food Factories	3	Vitreous Enamelling ...	1
Foundry : Iron	1	Maker of Electrodes for	
Grinding Wheel Maker ...	1	Welding	1
Heating Engineer	1	Maker of Sandpaper ...	1
Joinery Works	1	„ „ Bootlaces ...	1
Laundry	1	Manufacturing Chemists...	1
Lead Mills	1	Waterproofers and Stain-	
Manufacturer of Moulding		proofers	1
Powders	1	Chemicals for Motor Trade	1
Manufacturer of Coil and		Manufacturing and Experi-	
Helical Springs	1	mental Engineers ...	1
Manufacturer of Electrical		Door Furniture	1
Components	1	Building and Partition	
Manufacturer of Seed		Blocks	1
Sorters	1	Municipal and General	
Manufacturer of Dog Foods	1	Transport Engineers ...	1
„ „ Electrical			—
Resistances	1	Total	58

WORKSHOPS.

Blacksmiths	2	Parchment Worker ...	1
Cycle Repairer	1	Picture Frammer	1
Decorator	1	Sign Writers	2
Dressmaker... ..	1	Upholsterers	1
Gas Company Repair Depot	1		
Metal Workers	2		—
Motor Repairers	2	Total	15

WORKPLACES.

Builders	2	Restaurant & Cafe Kitchens	4
Benzine Manufacturer ...	1	Stables	2
Egg Packing Station ...	1	Water Pumping Station ...	1
Nurseryman	1		—
Poultry and Cattle Foods...	1	Total	13

